

What is claimed is:

1. A method of making a leather-like fabric-elastomer composite comprising the sequential steps of:

(a) providing a woven textile fabric, having a technical face and a technical back;

(b) producing a foamed elastomer composition comprising:

(i) a waterborne, anionically-stabilized polymer latex;

(ii) an acid-generating chemical;

(iii) at least one cloud-point surfactant; and

(iv) at least one foam-stabilizing surfactant,

wherein sufficient gas is introduced within the elastomer composition to produce said foamed elastomer composition;

(c) applying said foamed elastomer composition of (b) to the technical back of said textile fabric of (a);

(d) heating said fabric to an initial temperature to effectuate a uniform dispersion of said elastomer composition and to cause coagulation of said elastomer composition over said textile fabric;

(e) heating said textile fabric to a second temperature higher than said initial temperature in order to dry, but not destroy, said coagulated elastomer over said textile fabric.

2. A textile woven fabric-elastomer composite comprised of a woven fabric having a technical face and a technical back, said woven fabric having been coated on at least one side with an elastomer composition, said elastomer composition being partially incorporated into said fabric to create a seamless transition between said fabric and said elastomer.

3. The fabric-elastomer composite of Claim 2 wherein said woven fabric is comprised of fibers selected from the group consisting of natural fibers.

5 4. The fabric-elastomer composite of Claim 2 wherein said woven fabric is comprised of natural fibers selected from the group consisting of cotton, wool, ramie, or blends of these fibers.

10 5. The fabric-elastomer composite of Claim 2 wherein said woven fabric comprises cotton fibers.

6. The fabric-elastomer composite of Claim 2 wherein said woven fabric has a satin construction.

15 7. The fabric-elastomer composite of Claim 2 wherein said woven fabric has been napped on its technical face prior to being coated with said elastomer composition.

20 8. The fabric-elastomer composite of Claim 7 wherein said woven fabric has been calendered after being napped and prior to being coated with said elastomer composition.

25 9. The fabric-elastomer composite of Claim 2 wherein said woven fabric has been calendered prior to being coated with said elastomer composition.

10. The fabric-elastomer composite of Claim 2 wherein said elastomer composition is applied to said technical back of said woven fabric.

11. The fabric-elastomer composite of Claim 2 wherein said woven fabric has a pick count in the range of 20 to 80 picks per inch in the fill direction and an end count in the range of 30 to 90 ends per inch in the warp.

12. The fabric-elastomer composite of Claim 5 wherein said woven fabric is comprised of filling yarns having a cotton count in the range of 4/1 through 32/1 and 4/2 through 32/2.

13. The fabric-elastomer composite of Claim 5 wherein said woven fabric is comprised of warp yarns having a cotton count in the range of 8/1 through 32/1 and 8/2 through 32/2.

14. The fabric-elastomer composite of Claim 2 wherein said woven fabric has a weight in the range of one to 16 ounces per square yard.

15. The fabric-elastomer composite of Claim 14 wherein said woven fabric has weight in the range of 4 to 12 ounces per square yard.

16. The fabric-elastomer composite of Claim 14 wherein said woven fabric has a weight in the range of 6 to 8 ounces per square yard.

17. A composite having at least a first material, a second material, and a third material, wherein said first material comprises a woven fabric, wherein said

second material comprises an elastomer, said elastomer being at least partially incorporated within said fabric, and wherein said third material is selected from the group consisting of a transfer coating, a film coating, and a layer of plastic or polymeric material, wherein said third material is in contact with said second material and is not in contact with said first material.

18. The composite of Claim 17 wherein said third material comprises a felted or flocked textile substrate.

19. The composite of Claim 17 wherein said third material comprises a metallic substrate.

20. The composite of Claim 17 wherein said third material comprises a layer of polymeric or plastic material.

21. The composite of Claim 17 wherein said third material is a transfer coating that comprises a plurality of individual layers.